

Introduction

Eric Wilson novels excite the imagination of young readers in grades 4-6. Appealing to children's inherent keen interest in mystery, Eric Wilson has skilfully woven accurate Canadian geographic and historic information into his writing. He also touches on current Canadian social and political issues in many of his novels. As such these novels lend themselves to the integrated study of the mystery genre with Canadian geography topics in social studies and investigation units in science.

The Green Gables Detectives provides rich material for the study of setting, characterization and plot development. It can be used independently or in combination with the other Eric Wilson novels. The varying levels of difficulty within the series provide opportunity to accommodate individual student ability, experience and interests.

Students can supplement the package with meaningful research which will strengthen the impact of their work. They will take great delight in finding information on the Internet that directly links to the places or events in the novels. Every province, territory and most major cities have up-to-date information available on an Internet website.

An excellent audio-visual resource to accompany The Green Gables Detectives is the video "**Eric Wilson's Canada: A Mystery Writer's Prince Edward Island**" available from Magic Lantern Communications, Oakville, Ontario (1 800-263-1717). Eric Wilson explains how he created his novel from this geographic and historic setting. A scene from the novel is also enacted by two young actors.

Through the internet, students can be introduced to the author, Eric Wilson. His website address is www.ericwilson.com.

Chapter 4



- Why was Green Gables being picketed?

- What was the villain's goal?

- Why did Liz put a piece of folded paper between the doors of the wardrobe?

- Whom do you suspect wrote the note "Revenge"? Why?

Chapter 8



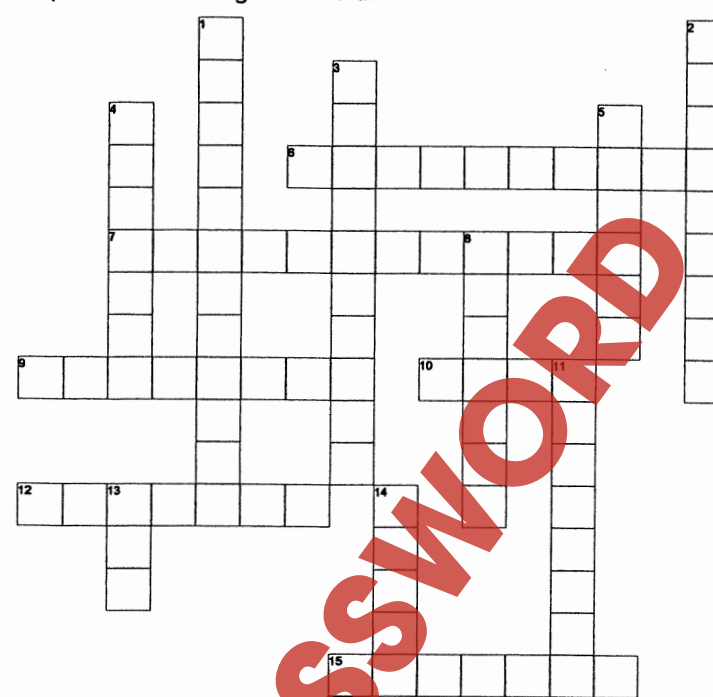
- Why did Liz go to Saint Ann's church?

- Describe the man Liz saw talking with Breanne in the church parking lot.

Final Projects

- Characterization**
Use the items you have recorded on your character summary to write a one paragraph character sketch of Liz Austen. Your paragraph should include the following:
a) a brief description of the character's appearance
b) five (5) character traits, supported with information from the story
c) a topic and concluding sentence.
- Letter**
Write a letter to a friend recommending that he/she read this novel by Eric Wilson. Be sure to tell your friend about your favourite part of the book. Also include your thoughts about some of the specific elements of good story writing that you have observed in this novel, such as setting, characterization, plot development, etc.
- Map Activity**
On your classroom map of Canada, mark and label the main setting of this novel.
- Illustration**
On the front cover, illustrate your favourite scene from the story.

- Vocabulary**
Complete the following crossword.



ACROSS

- Flashes a warning signal for ships (p.141)
- Shrewd, calculating person who does not care about the common good (p.11)
- Piece of furniture, a clothes closet (p.40)
- Overeat (p.58)
- Living room (p.36)
- Mikiko and Liz become _____ spirits. (P.25)

DOWN

- McDonald's in Japan (p.57)
- North coast of PEI (see map)
- Steamer sunk when the church bells tolled (2 words)(p.72)
- Favourite seafood meal (p.82)
- Hunted animal or person (p.2)
- Speech impediment (p.14)
- "Don't give up" in Japanese (p.79)
- Colour of soil in PEI (p.23)
- Food, tiny portions of raw fish on a bed of rice (p.57)

NOTE: Page numbers are from the 1996 edition of this novel.

Chapter 3

1. Why do you think Nikki hated Vernya?

2. Tom was very curious about the school and the events that took place there.

a) Why do you think the local people were so reluctant to answer his questions?

b) What do you think happened at the school?

3. a) Describe the clear-cut logging method.

b) How did Major Tosca plan to overcome the devastation of clear-cutting?

Chapter 3

Why do you think Nikki hated Vernya?

Accept any plausible answers with support.

Tom was very curious about the school and the events that took place there.

a) Why do you think the local people were so reluctant to answer his questions?

Accept any plausible answers with support. Answers could include that it was considered bad luck.

b) What do you think happened at the school?

Accept any plausible answers with support.

a) Describe the clear-cut logging method.

In clear-cut logging, all of the trees are cut. Toxic chemicals are poured over the land and the land is totally burned. The barren land is then eroded by rain.

b) How did Major Tosca plan to overcome the devastation of clear-cutting?

Major Tosca planned to replant the island with young trees, using the Finnish method.

Chapter 4

Tom went to the library and searched in the vertical files for old newspaper articles.

a) What did he learn about Major Tosca and his previous businesses?

Tom read about the grand opening of The Major's Galley, Major Tosca's restaurant. He also learned that Major Tosca had owned and operated a daily newspaper serving Ucluelet and Tofino. Axe and Mac were in the newspaper's staff photo. Both of these businesses closed because of financial difficulties.

ANSWER KEY